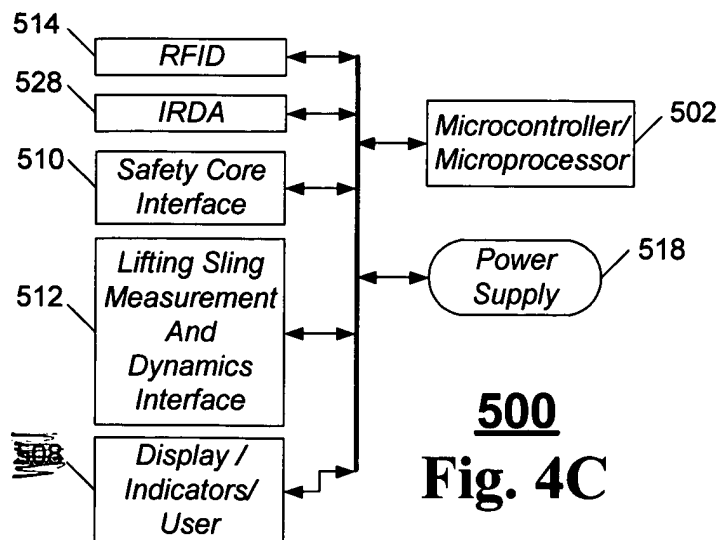
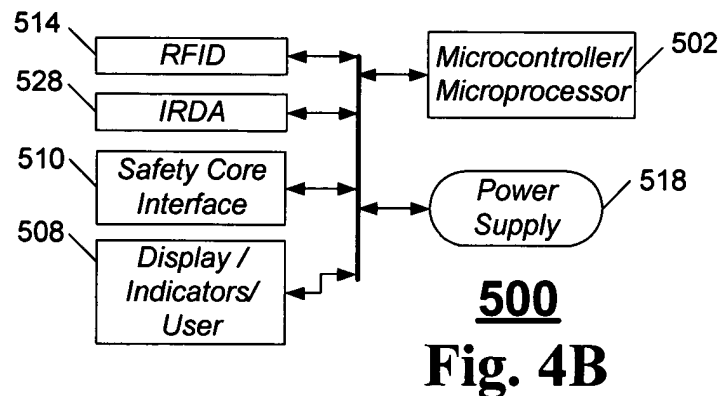


IN THE DRAWINGS

Please amend the drawings as follows:

ITEM #1:

Replace Figures 4B and 4C (both Figures are on 1 sheet of drawings) shown below with proposed changes indicated in red ink. A replacement formal sheet of drawings Figures 4B and 4C accompany this response. (Annotated Marked-Up Drawing shown below).



REMARKS

The Examiner indicates restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-18, drawn to a sling; or
- II. Claims 19-24, draw to a method of manufacturing a sling.

Though not conceding to the Examiner's position Applicant is electing, without traverse at this time, group I claims 1-18. Correspondingly, Applicant is withdrawing from consideration and canceling group II claims 19-24.

Prior to examination please amend the specification, claims, and drawings as indicated above. Regarding the claims Applicant has canceled 6 claims (2 independent and 4 dependent) and has added 6 claims (2 independent and 4 dependent) as such no fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.16(h)(i) is required. Support for Applicant's amendments can be found throughout Applicant's specification.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that Figures 4B and 4C (1 sheet of drawings) be replaced with Figures 4B and 4C formal sheet of drawing (1 sheet of drawings) that accompany this response.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and further examination of all claims 1-18, and 25-30. Applicant submits that in view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance and requests early notification to this effect.

Respectfully Submitted,



H. Brock Kolls

Agent for Applicant

Reg. No. 42,757

Dated: January 30, 2006

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: United States Patent and Trademark Office Mail Stop Amendments, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

JANUARY 30, 2006



H. Brock Kolls